COLLEGE PREPARATORY MATHEMATICS
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--U.S. Dept. of Education

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Re: Dana Center CCSS Math Practices Review of CPM *Algebra 2 Connections*

CPM is proud to be one of the Algebra 2 programs deemed satisfactory by the Indiana Textbook Advisory Council. CPM's submission for this review included the original *Algebra 2 Connections* text submitted and approved in 2009, along with a set of supplementary lessons for CCSS topics not covered in the text. These resources are available for free download at the CPM website (www.cpm.org) or for purchase in booklet form for a nominal cost. Together they provide a CCSS-aligned course of study for Algebra 2.

While the Dana Center review of the CCSS mathematical practices for *Algebra 2 Connections* is quite positive, the reviewer makes several references to elements of the lessons being "left up to the teacher." The research-based course design builds the lessons around investigations and big problems, done in student study teams, so doing the lessons in the textbook involves doing the activities that the reviewer implies are "up to the teacher." Students have structured roles within the study teams and regularly interact with one another. The "practice problems" (i.e., homework sets) follow the principles of "spaced practice" (i.e., practice over time both in new contexts and increasing complexity in homework sets) that research shows fosters greater long-term retention of learning than concentrated practice. Mastery evolves over time, not in one or two days. This is why formal statements of theorems and algorithms usually follow their concept-building lesson(s) by several days. The lesson notes in the Teacher Edition include suggestions for closure for each lesson as well as for the chapter.

We invite readers of this letter to look at the Dana Center review of CPM's *Algebra Connections*. That review gives a clear picture of how the parts of the CPM course design interact. In addition, you may read about the research base of CPM courses at http://www.cpm.org/parents/info.htm#research. You may peruse lessons from either of the sample chapters from the Teacher Edition of this course at (http://www.cpm.org/teachers/info.htm).

Respectfully submitted,

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President